What is claimed is:

1. An ink feeding rate control method for controlling a feeding rate of ink for each of areas corresponding to ink keys of an ink feeder in a printing machine, by comparing measurement information and reference information on detecting patches printed on prints, said method comprising the steps of:

determining an average of image area ratios of images in the areas on said prints corresponding to said ink keys;

determining an average of image area ratios of images in positions aligned in a printing direction with said detecting patches printed in the areas on said prints corresponding to said ink keys; and

correcting one of said reference information and said measurement information based on said average of image area ratios of the images in the areas on said prints corresponding to said ink keys, and said average of image area ratios of the images in said positions aligned in said printing direction with said detecting patches printed on said prints.

2. An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 1, wherein said measurement information on said detecting patches comprises densities of said detecting patches, and

said reference information comprises reference densities.

3. An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 1, wherein one of said reference information and said measurement information is corrected by using a correction factor obtained empirically.

4. An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 3, wherein a corrected value of one of said reference information and said measurement information is stored from time to time, one of said reference information and said measurement information being corrected in time of subsequent printing processes by using said corrected value stored.

5. An ink feeding rate control method for a printing machine having an image recorder for recording images on a printing plate based on image data, for controlling a feeding rate of ink for each of areas corresponding to ink keys of the ink feeder by comparing measurement information and reference information on detecting patches printed on prints, said method comprising the steps of:

determining, from said image data, an average of image area ratios of images in the areas on said prints corresponding to said ink keys;

determining, from said image data, an average of

image area ratios of images in positions aligned in a printing direction with said detecting patches printed in the areas on said prints corresponding to said ink keys; and

correcting one of said reference information and said measurement information based on said average of image area ratios of the images in the areas on said prints corresponding to said ink keys, and said average of image area ratios of the images in said positions aligned in said printing direction with said detecting patches printed on said prints.

6. An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 5, wherein said measurement information on said detecting patches comprises densities of said detecting patches, and said reference information comprises reference densities.

7. An ink feeding rate control method for controlling a feeding rate of ink for each of areas corresponding to ink keys of an ink feeder in a printing machine, based on measurement information on detecting patches printed on prints,

wherein the feeding rate of ink for each of the areas corresponding to the ink keys of the ink feeder is controlled based on an average of image area ratios of images in the areas on said prints corresponding to said ink keys, and an average of image area ratios of images in positions aligned in a printing direction with said detecting patches printed in

the areas on said prints corresponding to said ink keys.

8. An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 7, wherein said measurement information on said detecting patches comprises densities of said detecting patches.

9. A data correcting method for a printing machine for correcting one of measurement information and predetermined reference information when controlling the printing machine by comparing the measurement information and the reference information, the measurement information being obtained by measuring detecting patches printed on prints and corresponding to ink keys of the printing machine, said method comprising the steps of:

determining an average of image area ratios of images in the areas on said prints corresponding to said ink keys;

determining an average of image area ratios of images in positions aligned in a printing direction with said detecting patches printed in the areas on said prints corresponding to said ink keys; and

correcting one of said reference information and said measurement information based on said average of image area ratios of the images in the areas on said prints corresponding to said ink keys, and said average of image area

ratios of the images in said positions aligned in said printing direction with said detecting patches printed on said prints.

10. A data correcting method as defined in claim 9, wherein said measurement information on said detecting patches comprises densities of said detecting patches, and said reference information comprises reference densities.

11. A data correcting method as defined in claim 9, wherein said measurement information and said reference information are used for at least one of ink feeding rate control and dampening water feeding rate control in the printing machine.

12. A data correcting method as defined in claim 10, wherein said measurement information and said reference information are used for at least one of ink feeding rate control and dampening water feeding rate control in the printing machine.